

What is claimed is:

*Sub A* 1. A shaft configured for interconnection with a coupling element, the shaft comprising:  
an axial shaft body having upper and lower surfaces and terminating in a forward end;  
a bolt receiving recess in the upper shaft surface adjacent the forward shaft end;  
and  
at least one projection extending from the shaft forward end adjacent the shaft upper surface.

2. The shaft according to claim 1 wherein the shaft body has a given cross-sectional area and the projection has a cross-sectional area substantially less than the given cross-sectional area.

*Sub B* 3. The shaft according to claim 1 wherein the projection has a tapered tip.

4. The shaft according to claim 1 further comprising a second projection extending from the shaft forward end adjacent the shaft lower surface, the second projection substantially opposed to the projection extending adjacent the shaft upper surface with an open space defined therebetween.

5. The shaft according to claim 4 wherein the upper and lower projections are slightly flexible.

6. The shaft according to claim 4 wherein the shaft body has a given cross-sectional area and the upper and lower projections have a combined cross-sectional area substantially less than the given cross-sectional area.

*Sub 37.* The shaft according to claim 1 wherein the bolt receiving recess is a notch.

8. The shaft according to claim 1 wherein the bolt receiving recess is an annular groove.

*Sub A2 > 9.* A shaft coupling assembly comprising:

- a coupling element including a shaft-receiving slot;
- a retaining bolt extendable through the coupling element adjacent the shaft receiving slot;
- an axial shaft body having upper and lower surfaces and terminating in a forward end configured to be inserted in the coupling element slot;
- a bolt receiving recess in the upper shaft surface adjacent the forward shaft end and configured to receive and retain the retaining bolt after the shaft forward end is inserted in the coupling element slot; and
- at least one projection extending from the shaft forward end adjacent the shaft upper surface whereby the projection prevents improper clamping of the shaft forward end and any associated feeling of proper interconnection.

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10. The shaft coupling assembly according to claim 9 wherein the shaft-receiving slot has a given cross-sectional area, the shaft body has a cross-sectional area substantially equal to the given cross-sectional area and the projection has a cross-sectional area substantially less than the given cross-sectional area.

*Sub B1>* 11. The shaft coupling assembly according to claim 9 wherein the projection has a tapered tip.

*Sub A3>* 12. The shaft coupling assembly according to claim 9 wherein the coupling element includes a bolt receiving through bore that is spaced a given distance from an opening into the shaft-receiving slot and the projection has a length equal to or greater than the given distance.

*Sub B1>* 13. The shaft according to claim 9 further comprising a second projection extending from the shaft forward end adjacent the shaft lower surface, the second projection substantially opposed to the projection extending adjacent the shaft upper surface with an open area defined therebetween.

*Sub A4>* 14. The shaft according to claim 13 wherein the upper and lower projections are slightly flexible.

15. The shaft according to claim 13 wherein the shaft-receiving slot has a given cross-sectional area, the shaft body has a cross-sectional area substantially equal to the given

cross-sectional area and the upper and lower projections have a combined cross-sectional area substantially less than the given cross-sectional area.

16. The shaft coupling assembly according to claim 13 wherein the coupling element includes a bolt receiving through bore that is spaced a given distance from an opening into the shaft-receiving slot and the open area has a depth equal to or greater than the given distance.

*Sub 3* 17. The shaft according to claim 9 wherein the bolt receiving recess is a notch.

18. The shaft according to claim 9 wherein the bolt receiving recess is an annular groove.